

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-20 (Canceled).

1  
~~21.~~ (Currently Amended) ~~A method as described in claim~~  
~~10, including~~ In a computer system which has a first computer,  
a second computer connected to said first computer via a  
communication line, a first storage apparatus connected to  
said second computer via a fixed length access interface and  
storing data in a fixed-length block format used by said  
second computer, and a second storage apparatus connected to  
said first computer, a method for processing data stored in  
said first storage apparatus to said first computer further  
comprising the steps of:

requesting, from said first computer to said second  
computer via said communication line, to send data stored in  
said first storage apparatus in said fixed-length block format  
to said first computer via the communication line;

reading by using said second computer, in response  
to said request, data in said fixed-length block format from  
said first storage apparatus via said fixed length access

interface and transferring by using said second computer said  
read data in said fixed length block format to said first  
computer via the communication line;

converting, in said first computer, said transferred  
data in said fixed-length block format to data in variable-  
length block format;

processing said converted data in said first  
computer;

making volume information for accessing data stored  
in said first storage apparatus, in said first computer;

checking whether data to be read is stored in said  
first ~~the~~ storage apparatus or not based on said volume  
information by using said first computer; and

reading data from said second storage apparatus if  
the data to be read is not stored in said first storage  
apparatus by said first computer.

<sup>2</sup>  
~~2~~. (Previously Presented) A method as described in  
claim <sup>1</sup>~~2~~.

wherein said second storage apparatus is connected  
to said second computer, and

wherein data, read by said first computer, is stored in said second storage apparatus by said second computer.

3

~~23~~. (Currently Amended) A system ~~according to claim 18,~~  
comprising:

a first computer;

a second computer connected to said first computer  
through a communication line;

a first storage apparatus storing data in a fixed-  
length block format connected to said second computer via a  
fixed length access interface; and

a second storage apparatus connected to said first  
computer,

wherein said first computer requests said second  
computer to send data stored in said first storage apparatus  
via said communication line,

wherein said second computer reads said data stored  
in said first storage apparatus via said fixed length access  
interface and transfers said data to said first computer via  
said communication line based on said request,

wherein said first computer receives said  
transferred data, converts said received data to a variable-  
length block format, and processes said converted data,  
wherein said <sup>first computer</sup> processor makes volume information for  
accessing data stored in said first storage apparatus,

wherein said first computer checks whether data to  
be read is stored in the said first storage apparatus or not  
based on said volume information, <sup>+</sup> and

wherein said first computer reads data from said  
second storage apparatus if the data to be read is not stored  
in said first storage apparatus.

<sup>4</sup>  
<sup>3</sup> ~~24~~. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim  
~~23~~,

wherein said second storage apparatus is connected  
to said second computer, and

wherein data, read by said first computer, is stored  
in said second storage apparatus by said second computer.